

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 12005 280843Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 CU-02 DHA-02 /056 W
-----280852Z 007640 /21

R 280745Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1403
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 12005

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IV, GV, AG
SUBJECT: IVORY COAST ON GUINENAN FOOTBALL POLITICS

REF: (A) ABIDJAN 10602(NOTAL), (B) CONAKRY 2222, (C) ALGIERS 2673

1. DECEMBER 27 EDITION OF GOIC-CONTROLLED DAILY NEWS-PAPER FRATERNITE MATIN CARRIED FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES AND THREE PAGES OF INTERIOR DEVOTED TO REPORT HEARD VIA RADIO CONAKARY (VOIX DE LA REVOLUTION) THAT GOG FIRED MINISTER OF SPORT AND OTHER HIGH SPORTS OFFICIALS, DISSOLVED GUINEAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION, AND ARRESTED TWO PLAYERS FOR TREASON IN WAKE OF HUMILIATING DEFEAT SUFFERED BY GUINEAN TEAM IN ALGIERS. PAPER NOTED THAT SEKOU TOURE CONDUCTED INQUIRY IN CONAKRY'S PALAIS DU PEUPLE IN OBVIOUS RAGE WHICH ONE COULD HEAR IN STATEMENT SUBSEQUENTLY READ OVER RADIO CONAKRY, TEXT OF WHICH CARRIED IN FULL IN FRATERNITE MATIN.

2. COMMENTARY FOCUSED ON POLITICIZATION OF FOOTBALL IN GUINEA QUOTING SECTION OF SEKOU TOURE STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT HAFIA TEAM OF GUINEA IS NOT LIKE OTHER TEAMS BUT
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REPRESENTS THE YOUTH OF THE NATION WHICH IS GUIDED BY THE REVOLUTION. AS SUCH THE TEAM IS THE INCARNATION OF THE PEOPLE AND OF THE REVOLUTION ITSELF WHICH IS WHY THE RESULT OF THE MATCH IN ALGIERS WAS A HUMILIATING DEFEAT WHICH THE PEOPLE OF GUINEA DID NOT DESERVE. IVORIAN COMMENTATOR NOTED THERE COULD NO LONGER BE ANY DOUBT OF

THAT WHICH EVERYONE KNEW ALL ALONG, THAT HAFIA IS A
NATIONAL TEAM AND NOT A FOOTBALL CLUB, A FACT
WHICH SHOULD BE DULY NOTED BY THE AFRICAN CONFEDERATION
OF FOOTBALL.

3. COMMENT: THE GUINEAN DEFEAT IN ALGIERS COULD NOT
BUT DELIGHT THE IVORIANS WHO ARE STILL SIMMERING OVER THE
ROUGH TREATMENT ACCORDED THE IVORIAN TEAM IN CONAKRY
SEVERAL WEEKS AGO (REFTELS A AND B). ADDED TO THAT THE
EVIDENT RAGE OF SEKOU TOURE AND THE CHANCE TO MORALIZE
OVER THE POLITICAL RETRIBUTIONS MADE CHRISTMAS JUST A
LITTLE BIT BRIGHTER FOR IVORIAN FOOTBALL FANS. END COMMENT.
STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABIDJA12005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760473-0815
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976128/aaaaagpv.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ABIDJAN 10602, 77 CONAKRY 2222, 77 ALGIERS 2673
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVORY COAST ON GUINENAN FOOTBALL POLITICS
TAGS: PFOR, IV, GV, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006